

no special remark, fluctuations in pay and allowances of officers are the causes of the differences which appear. But the excess is due entirely to a sum of Rs. 1,784 having been debited to the accounts of the Northern Circle, on account of payments made in Bombay to Forest officers of other provinces; although this charge has no connection whatever with the expenditure of the Northern Circle. The result has been to reduce the surplus revenue of the Northern Circle, otherwise the net revenue of the Northern Circle would be exhibited as Rs. 4,81,967 in place of Rs. 4,80,183.

CHAPTER VI.

GENERAL REMARKS.

177. Leaving the Akola Dáangs in the Ahmednagar Division the Conservator walked down into the Junnar Taluka of the Poona Collectorate, through the Harischandragad forests, and his camp was at Khireswar on the 1st April 1889, where Mr. R. C. Wroughton, the Divisional Forest Officer, Poona, joined him, and the Syhádri forests about the Málsej Ghát and the head-waters of the Mina were inspected. The forest boundary upon these hills is taken far up the slopes to the foot of the first scrap, and all below that limit is periodically shaved to provide ráb material, and also for a wretched inferior cultivation carried on *in situ* with the bill-hook and fire. The cultivation areas in the plains below at the head of the valley are of exceptionally good soil, and grow wheat almost to the verge of the Gháts; and the afforestation of the lower belt of the steep hills draining on to them is all that is required to enhance the productiveness of the flat lands. While encamped at Nurgudi in the Mina valley, about 3 miles from Junnar, a word was received from the Forest Guards below the Gháts in the Murbád Taluka of the Thana Collectorate, that Koli villagers of Bhiwri, Ingulun and Ámboli, above the Gháts, in the Junnar Sub-division, had descended the Ámboli Ghát in a body and made a raid upon the Government forests below in the Murbád Range, and that they had rolled rocks and stones down upon the Murbád Forest Guards who had detected their proceedings, &c., and had attempted to catch them. The Conservator accordingly with the Divisional Forest Officer, Poona, and the Range Forest Officer, Junnar, visited the timber market at Junnar, the next morning, and apprehended 20 Kolis bringing freshly cut stolen timber, such as the private lands and Government forests above the Syhádri at the head of the Mina valley cannot produce, and could only have come from the reserved forests in the Konkan; these men were taken before the Magistrate, who took bail at once from them to the extent of Rs. 25 each, and the names of 34 other villagers, who were detected conveying similarly stolen timber, were recorded; and the Divisional Forest Officer of South Thána was instructed to take proceedings under the Forest Act against the offenders. And a report was made to the District Magistrate of Poona, Mr. East, who at once instructed the Police Department of his Collectorate to adopt preventive measures against similar raids in the future. The 20 Kolis, who had been arrested and bailed, were tried by the Subordinate Magistrate of Murbád, in the Thána Collectorate, some months afterwards, and were convicted and sentenced to a fine of Rs. 2 each. The District Magistrate of Thána informed the Conservator that in reviewing the 3rd class Magistrate's calendar he had stated that the sentences were too light and that the men should have been imprisoned. The Conservator then marched with Mr. Wroughton over several cross ranges of hill abutting from the Syhádri, through the Junnar, Ámbegaon, Khed and Mával Forest Ranges, when teak and other forests were daily inspected and coupes were visited. After the Easter vacation camp was rejoined at Lingmala in the Mahábaleshvar Range of the Sátára Division, to which it had moved in the meanwhile, when the forests all round were visited with local Forest officials: and with the Commissioner, C. D., and the Collector of Sátára, the Conservator made a detailed inspection of the forest and other lands immediately surrounding the station of Mahábaleshvar, the far-famed health resort of Western India. From this place the Conservator marched through a portion of the Wái and Koregaon talukas of the Sátára District, to the Purandhar Range of the Poona District, inspecting the forests of these ranges, and

he walked over the forests upon the slopes of the Purandhar Fort hills, and visited the Collector at Purandhar. This place is the principal sanitarium of the great military station, Poona; it is perched up high on the top of the hill, and in the interests of this health resort, if for no other reason, it is highly important to maintain the sides of the mountain, which are very steep, efficiently protected by a dense growth of timber. From Purandhar the Conservator's camp proceeded to Poona for the rainy season, while he went to Mátherán to inspect the forests of that health resort, the second in estimation in Western India, and which is largely frequented by visitors from the city of Bombay. The Divisional Forest Officer with the local Forest officials met the Conservator in order to concert measures for the protection of the forests, and the punishment of a large body of Thákurs, who, despite frequent warnings, had deliberately cut down trees and cleared forest lands for dálhi cultivation upon the sides of Mátherán. The Collector, who was at Mátherán, was visited and the forest matters of the Collectorate were discussed, as also the treatment of the case against the Thákurs of the villages surrounding Mátherán. These men were eventually prosecuted, convicted and sentenced to punishments of imprisonment for varying periods of time and to fines. This sharp, but by no means unduly severe, disposal has had a very wholesome effect. The cleared areas were sown and planted up with seeds and will be closed for regeneration for a long term of years.

178. In the month of November, the Conservator moved camp into the Mádhá Range of the Sholápur Division, and inspecting the forests of that range proceeded to the Bársi Range, where he was met by the Divisional Forest Officer, Sholápur, Mr. Hornidge, with his office, which was examined. A detailed inspection of the forests in this and of the Karmála Ranges was made. The Conservator was very much pleased to see a fine young growth of timber, including teak trees, covering the slopes of the Yedshi Hills in the Bársi Range, and that reboisement has been very successful upon the catchment slopes of the Koregaon Lake. Teak and other junglewood trees are seeding in these places, and consequently if protection continues to be good, as at present, which no doubt it will, reafforestation with good timber may be regarded as a certainty, without further expenditure in sowing or planting. The Conservator was also gratified to see that the bábul reserves of the Bársi, Mádhá and Karmála Ranges have improved very rapidly and contain a valuable and promising young growth of timber, and that the water-sheds and uplands, which have been placed under forest reservation only since the Deccan famine and have been treated very simply and inexpensively for reboisement, are thickly overgrown by thorny and other bushes interspersed with trees. Where the ground was perfectly bare a few years ago and only speargrass appeared during the rains, there is now an excellent growth of young trees; and the fodder and pasturage are unsurpassable.

179. Leaving the Karmála Taluka of the Sholápur Division, the Conservator marched into the Karjat Taluka of the Ahmednagar Division, and crossing the Bhima river near Shirápur, in the Poona District, encamped at Gar in the Ahmednagar Division, by the middle of December. Here Mr. Wilkins, the Divisional Forest Officer, Ahmednagar, and Mr. R. C. Wroughton, Divisional Forest Officer, Poona, joined the Conservator's camp with their offices, which were examined, and the forest matters of the two divisions were discussed; and reserved forests under systematic working and other forest lands were visited daily, while the Conservator's camp was moving up the Bhima valley, through the bábul forests of the Sirur Range, to Poona for the Christmas vacation. Colonel Pullan, Superintendent of Forest Surveys, was visited by the Conservator at Párgaon, who conferred with him about the surveys of the bábul reserves upon the 16" scale in the Bhimthadi Range, and inspected some of the maps which had been done recently.

180. After the Christmas vacation the office opened at Bhusával in the East Khándesh Division, to which place it had gone by railway in the meanwhile, and the Conservator marched through the forests of this range into the Edlabad Range, and encamped at Ghodasgaon, on the banks of the Purna river. Inspecting the Tránsputna reserved forest and the bábool felling operations undertaking therein, and crossing the Tápti river near Ainpur, the Conservator encamped at Ráver, where he was met by Mr. F. R. Desái, Deputy Conservator of Forests, 1st

grade, and Divisional Forest Officer, East Khándesh, when the divisional office accounts and records were examined. And sending their heavy camps and offices by cart road below the hills to Virwada, in the Chopda Range, the Conservator and the Divisional Forest Officer travelled through the Sátputa Hill forests of the Ráver, Sávida, Yával and Chopda Ranges of the East Khándesh Division, from Pal in the east to the Aner beyond Umarti on the West. Tents and all equipment had to be transported by pack bullocks through these wide-stretching forests. A young crop of beautiful anjan saplings is restocking the ground in the reserved forests round Pal, and its surrounding settlements of Jinsi and Morwal in all directions; and the Sátputa forests of Khándesh, except where the exercise of privileges is retarding development, are improving wonderfully. If these forests were properly treated, they would become an inexhaustible source of wealth and a wide field for the employment of labour and for the promotion and maintenance of industries. It would be of advantage if a cart-road could be made through the hills east and west from the Pal Settlement on the one side, to near Virwada on the other, with other cart-roads to lead down from the hills into the plains of the Tápti valley, by the way of the Kharkhana and other gháts. By opening out communications in the Sátputas, a very extensive source of grass supply will be made accessible to the champaign country, both north and south of the Tápti, where grass is in request, and where a grass famine frequently prevails. Timber and firewood, at present shut up, will become exploitable, the forests will be brought under systematic working, timber trade will be stimulated, giving employment to the local labour skilled in timber operations, and forest revenues will go up concurrent with the increased augmentation of the capital value of the forest: provided always that promiscuous exploitations under the exercise of depleting privileges are put a stop to.

181. It was most refreshing to see fire conservancy almost perfect on the British side of the frontier line, while Holkar's forest lands were completely searched by constant fires; and it was not unpleasant to walk and ride through a sea of excellent grass. The Conservator walked the Suka river from Manjel to its rise, and followed the Aner river from its first springs to Umarti and found that both rivers contain surface water in constant pools and almost continuous flow.

182. Leaving the East Khándesh Division by the end of January the Conservator entered the Shirpur Sátputas of the West Khándesh Division, and after inspecting the forests in this range and the timber brought to temporary depôt for sale, he marched through the Sháháda Sátputas and through a corner of the Badwari State *via* Pansemal, and encamped at Fatepur in the Sháháda Range, where Mr. Fagan, the Divisional Forest Officer, West Khándesh, joined him. Some of the timber felled in Bhil settlements in the Sháháda and Akráni Ranges was inspected, in company with Mr. Fagan, and after examining the divisional office accounts and records, the Conservator marched westward into the Taloda Range, leaving Mr. Fagan at Fatepur to complete the auction sales of the felled timber in the Akráni and Sháháda Ranges. After inspecting some forests and some works in the Taloda, Nandurbár, Nizámpur and Pimpalner Ranges of the West Khándesh Division, the Conservator moved camp into the leased Dángs, *via* Zakriabari, and encamped for a short time at Khubeta in the Garvi Dángs, where the timber exploitation operations of the contractors working on behalf of the Department were inspected. From Garvi Dángs the Conservator proceeded into the Pimpri Dángs and thence to Waghai, where he was met by the Divisional Forest Officer, Mr. R. H. Mádan, who was appointed to the Surat Division during the absence of Mr. W. S. Hexton, who was on leave. On arriving at Waghai the Divisional Forest Office accounts and registers were examined, and in company with Mr. Mádan the forests in the vicinity of Waghai and the Waghai depôt were examined.

183. Leaving the Waghai Dángs by the 5th of March, the Conservator marched through the Bánsda State and the Chikhli Taluka of the Surat Division and encamped at Bilimora; he then proceeded to Godhra with part of his office establishment, and directed the office camp to be removed from Bilimora to Pálghar in the North Thána Division. After examining the Divisional Forest Office, Panch Maháls, the Conservator returned back to Pálghar, and while

inspecting the forests in the Máhim Range was met by Mr. Fry, the Divisional Forest Officer, Working Plans, at Sophála, who accompanied the Conservator up to the close of the year, during which period some of the blocks and compartments were examined in this as well as the Sálsette Ranges; and the Conservator's camp was at Bhándup in the Sálsette Range of the North Thána Division on the 31st March 1890.

184. During his tour of inspection, the Conservator examined the Divisional Forest Offices of Sátára, Sholápur, Ahmednagar, Poona, East and West Khándesh, Surat, Panch Maháls and Working Plans, and found them in good working order.

185. The North Thána Forest Division was under Messrs. A. D. Wilkins and F. Gleadow, from 1st April to 31st October and 1st November to 31st March, respectively; and both these officers deserve much credit for their able and efficient management. Mr. Gleadow speaks in commendatory terms of Messrs. Baptista and Robinson, Sub-division Officers. The Collector records that "Mr. Gleadow's report is most creditable to his ability and devotion," and the Conservator would add that Mr. Gleadow's zeal and knowledge of his profession are conspicuous.

186. Mr. G. P. Millett, Divisional Forest Officer, South Thána, has discharged his duties in a highly satisfactory manner; and the Collector of the district has recorded that his progress report shows a clear understanding and a minute knowledge of the difficulties in the way of improved conservancy. Messrs. R. H. Mádan and J. H. Clabby, who were his Sub-division Officers during the year, have also, he reports, worked energetically and conscientiously.

187. Mr. F. R. Desái, Deputy Conservator of Forests, 1st grade, merits acknowledgment for his good work and the constant attention to his duties in East Khándesh. The Collector, Mr. Loch, C. S., has recorded that "the result of the year's work in East Khándesh has been satisfactory; both the gross and net revenue have been increasing steadily for the past four years, and there is every reason to hope that, if the division remains under the charge of an experienced and energetic officer like Mr. Desái, the improvement will continue."

188. The West Khándesh Forest Division was in charge of Mr. R. S. Fagan, who has also earned the acknowledgments of the Collector in the following words:—

"The undersigned has on former occasions expressed his opinion of Mr. Fagan's efficiency as a Forest officer. He will only now say that Mr. Fagan has worked as zealously and successfully as before, though his health has at times been far from satisfactory."

The Conservator fully endorses these opinions, for Messrs. Desái and Fagan are very zealous officers with great devotion to duty. Mr. Fagan reports that Mr. G. S. Hingé, his Sub-division Officer, has been energetic and has given him much assistance.

189. Mr. W. G. Betham, Deputy Conservator of Forests, 2nd grade, has administered the Násik forests in a satisfactory manner. He commends his Sub-division Officer, Mr. Wallinger, for having worked with energy, zeal and activity.

190. Mr. Horatio Mainwaring was Divisional Forest Officer, Ahmednagar, from 1st April to 31st October 1889, on which date he proceeded to Europe sick, and the Conservator has thereby been deprived, for a time, of the cordial help of a zealous and intelligent officer. Mr. Wilkins, who succeeded Mr. Mainwaring, has administered the forest division with his wonted vigour and energy. The Acting Collector of the district remarks that "the affairs of the Department appear to have been carried on very satisfactorily during the year."

191. Mr. R. C. Wroughton, Divisional Forest Officer, Poona, has continued to earn the acknowledgments of the Conservator by a conscientious performance of his duties, and speaks favourably of Mr. W. R. Gaundé, his Sub-division Officer.

192. The Collector of Sātāra, Mr. R. E. Candy, C.S., writes:—

“He believes that Mr. Greathead is a most conscientious worker and has done his very best to grapple with the mass of work which falls to the lot of a Forest officer in this very extensive division.”

And Mr. H. E. Winter, C. S., in forwarding the report of the Sholapur Division has remarked:—

“The report is exceedingly interesting and shows that Mr. Hornidge has given careful personal attention to every branch of his important charge.”

While the Collector of the Panch Mahāls has recorded a very high opinion of Mr. Keys, the Divisional Forest Officer, Panch Mahāls, who has been very successful in the management of his charge: the Conservator concurs thoroughly with the Collector upon this point.

193. Mr. T. B. Fry, Divisional Forest Officer, Working Plans, is an excellent Forest officer, as active and energetic in the forests as punctual and careful in office; and has been of great assistance to the Conservator and to the Divisional Forest Officers of Thāna, more particularly.

194. The Collectors of the several districts, composing the Northern Circle, take active participation in the administration of the forest business of the Circle, and the Conservator must acknowledge the very ready and courteous assistance and consideration he has received from them at all times. Mr. East, in Poona, Mr. Loch in Khāndesh, Mr. Porteous in Thāna, Mr. Campbell in the Panch Mahāls, Mr. Candy in Sholapur, Mr. Winter in Sātāra, are ever ready to co-operate in the furtherance of forest interests and to support this Department, as far as may be possible, in their judgment with due regard to other conflicting interests.

195. The Superintendent of Forest Surveys, Colonel Pullan, and his officers have also performed excellent work for this Department and deserve special mention.

196. Of Range Forest Officers, Rangers Hassan Ali Mahomed Ali and Shaik Abbas in North Thāna; Mr. Govind Rāmchandra Takle in South Thāna; Abdul Rasul, Ranger of Chopda in East Khāndesh; and Forester Dildār Ali in West Khāndesh; Rangers Shitārām Hari Waze, Rāmchandra Rawji Bodwadkar and Lakshman Bhiwji Pāpde in Nāsik; Rangers Vishnu Mahādeo Tilak and Bālāji Dhondeo Dhekne in Poona; Mr. Keshav Pāndurang Kavthekar in Sātāra; Mr. Walabhrām Mulji Bhat in Surat and Mr. Dāmodar Moreshwar Deuskar in the Panch Mahāls, are specially brought to notice for constant, zealous, intelligent and satisfactory performance of duty: and these officers, considering the arduous nature of their duties and the heavy responsibilities placed upon them, richly deserve to have their names prominently mentioned in the Forest Administration Report of the Circle.

197. The Conservator has much pleasure in testifying to the good work done by Messrs. Krishnāji Bābāji Phadke, Keshav Ganesh Vaidya, Mahādeo Nārāyan Gokhale and Krishnāji Vyankatesh Lohokare in his office and by Messrs. Shivrām Bhikāji Rāngnekar, Trimbark Bhikāji Layhāte, Dāmodar Tukārām Salsingikar, Nimrāj Keshav Chāndekar, Bālkrishna Gopāl Kher, Trimbak Govind Mahājan, Govind Sitārām Rājurkar, Auāji Gopāl Mujumdār and Vyankatesh Hari Shikhare, who have been recommended by the Divisional Forest Officers for satisfactory performance of their duties. Where clerks in their own humble spheres do their best in willing, ungrudging service, working, very often, after regular office hours, to promote a satisfactory administration, it would be as ungracious as impolitic to avoid according to them such a very small measure of distinction as prominent mention of their names in this history.

198. In the Forest Class attached to the College of Science, Poona, four students were admitted in the junior class in January 1890 and one passed the final examination in September 1890.

A. T. SHUTTLEWORTH,
Conservator of Forests, Northern Circle.

Poona, 31st October 1890.